

United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fourth Circuit

CHAMBERS OF  
J. MICHAEL LUTTIG  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

May 10, 2006

President George Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Please accept this letter as my resignation from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, effective immediately.

It is the greatest honor of my life to have served as a federal judge for the past 15 years.

For as long as I can remember, it was my dream to serve on the United States Court of Appeals, and the experience has far exceeded even all that I had imagined. It is little overstatement to say that I have loved every single aspect and every single moment of my service.

It has been a particular privilege to serve on the court in the aftermath of the attack on the United States of September 11, 2001, during which time, in the context of the country's prosecution of those who committed the atrocities against America on that morning, the court has been asked to address some of the most complex and far-reaching legal questions of our day.

I could not have imagined that I would ever leave the court, so great is my respect for and complete commitment to the federal judiciary. It certainly had never crossed my mind that I might leave at this point during my tenure.

However, through sheer serendipity, an opportunity to serve as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of The Boeing Company presented itself to me a few weeks ago. And after many hours of discussion with Elizabeth, she and I decided that this is a singular opportunity that we cannot forgo.

First of all, The Boeing Company is an American icon. There is just something larger than life about the company. From the global travel it enables through its commercial aircraft, to the contributions that it makes to our military preparedness and space exploration, its work and its products completely capture the imagination.

Additionally, the Boeing Board of Directors has recently elected a new Chief Executive Officer, James McNerney. And after having spent a not inconsiderable amount of time with Jim over the past several weeks, I believe that he is one of the most impressive business leaders in America. I also believe that the management team he has brought together to take Boeing forward into its next generation is one of the most talented in the country. The chance to become a part of such an exceptional team makes the opportunity at Boeing even that much more exciting.

And last, and importantly, because of the central role that The Boeing Company plays in the Nation's defense and security -- a role that I believe is distinctively imbued with the public trust -- employment at Boeing will in effect permit me, through service in the private sector, to continue in a form of service to the public.

In a word, I believe in the mission of Boeing, which reaches far beyond itself. Indeed, though I could have never expected that the opportunity would present itself, Boeing may well be the only company in America for which I would have ever considered leaving the court.

I must say that the decision Elizabeth and I have made to accept this new challenge, as exhilarating as it is, does not come without sadness, as it represents a parting from that which I have held most dear for many years. I believe that service as a federal judge is one of the very highest callings in life. And I do not believe for a moment that any job could be as personally fulfilling as has been my service on the federal bench. At the end of the day, however, I am convinced that this is the right decision for me at this time, and, most importantly, for my family, to whom I owe my highest obligation. This is especially so, as I am sure you can understand, given that my daughter, Morgan, is rapidly approaching college age, and my son, John, is following not long behind.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to your father, because of whom my professional dreams in life came true. For the opportunities that have been mine

because of him, I will forever be grateful to him and to your family.

I wish you every success during the remainder of your Administration.

Respectfully,

  
J. Michael Luttig

cc: The Attorney General of the United States  
Judges, United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fourth Circuit